

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAR ES 00812 251017Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 7747

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 0812

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, TZ

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: NEXT STEPS WITH THE FRONT LINE

REF: STATE 049593

1. IN DISCUSSING NAMIBIA (SEPTTEL) WITH TANZANIA
FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA MORNING OF FEBRUARY 25, SUBJECT OF
RHODESIA INEVITABLY CAME UP. MKAPA DID NOT GO INTO PERSONAL
ATTACK ON BRITISH AND OWE AS HAS BEEN FASHION HERE DURING
PAST WEEK OR SO. INDEED, HE AGREED THAT OWEN STATEMENT OF
FEBRUARY 24 THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO JUDGE ALL
ENDEAVORS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT BY THE YARDSTICK OF THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN PLAN WAS A STEP BACK IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 DAR ES 00812 251017Z

2. THRUST OF HIS PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, WAS THAT HE REMAINED
VERY "WORRIED ABOUT OWEN". OWEN SEEMED TO BE PREPARED TO LEAVE
THE INITIATIVE TO SALISBURY. IN THAT CASE THE AA-PROPOSALS
WOULD NEVER BE IMPLIMENTED. ALSO, OWEN'S PUBLIC PRAISE FOR
NKOMO AND OTHER ACTIONS IN REGARD TO NKOMO SUGGESTED UK INTENTION
TO TRY TO GET NKOMO TO DEFECT TO INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

3. THIS, SAID MKAPA, WAS EXACTLY WRONG THING TO DO AT THIS TIME. INITIATIVE IN AA PLAN MUST BE PICKED UP AGAIN IN LONDON OR WASHINGTON. HE BELIEVED THAT ONE MORE ROUND OF MEETINGS (WHICH COULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE LIMITED TO A DAY OR SO) WOULD PRODUCE A "CORE" OF AGREEMENT WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WHICH WOULD BE ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THE "CORE" THE WESTERN FMVE HAVE REACHED WITH SWAPO. THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES WERE FAIRLY MANAGEABLE. THEY WERE (A) THE SHARING OF POWER UN THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, AND (B) THE ASSOCIATING OF THE PF IN SOME WAY IN SECURITY MATTERS. THERE WAS NO PROBLEM ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

4. WHILE UNEQUIVOCAL ON THE NEED FOR LONDON AND WASHINGTON TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AWAY FROM SALISBURY, MKAPA DID NOT EXUDE URGENCY IN TIMING. HE SAID HE THOUGHT WE HAD "THREE OR FOUR WEEKS" TO GET THINGS STRAIGHTENED OUT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY AS TO WHAT MIGHT FOLLOW US-UK ACHIEVEMENT OF A "CORE" OF AGREEMENT IN ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, MKAPA SAID THE SALISBURY PEOPLE COULD THEN BE CALLED IN TO FIT THEM INTO THE PLAN. HE SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED MUZOREWA, SITHOLE, SMITH, AND CHIROU.

6. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF ABOVE, OUR RESPONSE TO QUESTION POSED IN REFTEL IS AS FOLLOWS: IF NECESSARY TO GET AS MUCH AS WE CAN FROM THE BRITISH, WE CAN DELAY OUR HOLDING ACTION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 DAR ES 00812 251017Z

APPROACH IN DAR ES SALAAM FOR A LITTLE WHILE AT LEAST. IN VIEW OF FEBRUARY 24 OWEN STATEMENT AND ESSENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF GETTING BRITISH BACK ON BOARD, I DO NOT FEEL AS STRONGLY AS I DID IN EARLIER TELEGRAM THAT APPROACH SHOULD NOT BE JOINT. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, INCLUDE JOINT INSTRUCTIONS TO REAFFIRM OUR POSITION THAT AAP OFFERS BEST SOLUTION AND AN INDICATION THAT US AND UK ARE AT LEAST CONSIDERING RESUMING INITIATIVE ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY MKAPA. IT SHOULD AVOID SUCH PHRASES AS "NEW REALITIES", ESPECIALLY WHEN IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW "REAL" THE DEVELOPMENTS IN SALISBURY TURN OUT TO BE, HOWEVER PUT, WE SHOULD INDICATE OUR AIM IS TO CRANK WHATEVER OCCURS IN SALISBURY INTO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN, NOT TO ACCOMMODATE THE AA PLAN TO DEVELOPMENTS IN SALISBURY.

7. QUITE APART FROM WHAT WE TELL THE FRONT LINE WE ARE UP TO, I CAN SEE NO REASON WHY CLEARLY-DEFINED AND U.S. AGREED TO APPROACHES BY UK TO INTERNAL NATIONALISTS AND SOUTH AFRICA AS SET FORTH REFTEL SHOULD IN FACT PRECLUDE PARALLEL APPROACHES TO PATRIOTIC FRONT FOR MALTA FOLLOW-UP AS SUGGESTED BY MKAPA. WE CAN JUSTIFY NOT CONDEMNING THE SALISBURY PEOPLE BECAUSE WE WILL WANT TO INCLUDE THEM IN LATER. WHAT WILL INDEED BE HARD TO JUSTIFY IS NOT GOING AHEAD WITH OUR OWN PROPOSALS.

(INCIDENTALLY, I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE REFERENCE IN PARA 2
REFTEL TO OUR INABILITY TO GET ENDORSEMENT FOR THE AA PROPOSALS
FROM FRONT LINE. IT SEEMS TO ME WE COULD HARDLY HAVE STRONGER
ENDORSEMENT. AS TO FL ABILITY TO MOVE PF, IT IS A BIT EARLY
IN THE GAME TO THROW IN THE TOWEL.)
SPAIN

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